

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the benefit of Members and the public that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has scheduled a hearing to receive testimony on S. 417, reauthorizing EPCA through 2002; S. 416, administration bill reauthorizing EPCA through 1998; and S. 186, providing priority for purchases of SPR oil for Hawaii; and the energy security of the United States. In addition to these bills the committee will also consider S. 698, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Replenishment Act.

The hearing will take place on Tuesday, May 13, 1997 at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Those wishing to testify or submit written statements for the record should contact Karen Hunsicker, counsel to the committee at (202) 224-3543 or Betty Nevitt, staff assistant, at (202) 224-0765.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO
MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Thursday, May 8, 1997, at 5 p.m. in executive session, to consider certain pending military nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN
AFFAIRS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 1997, to conduct a mark-up on S. 462, the Public Housing Reform and Responsibility Act of 1997.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 1997, at 10:30 a.m. to hold a business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Thursday, May 8, 1997, at 10 a.m. for a hearing on the Government's Impact on Television Programming.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting

during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 1997, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 1997, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing on: S. 43, Criminal Use of Guns.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 1997, beginning at 9:30 a.m. to consider revisions of Title 44/GPO.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation be authorized to meet on May 8, 1997, at 10:30 a.m. on the Hazardous Materials Transportation Reauthorization.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AMENDMENT ON WZLS RADIO
STATION

• Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I have agreed not to offer an amendment to the supplemental appropriations bill regarding a radio station in my State, because I am told that a point of order may be raised against it. But, Mr. President, I will continue to probe this matter further. I intend to request documents from the FCC on this issue. Further, I think that the Commerce Committee should hold a hearing to investigate the irregularities concerning this case.

Mr. President, in 1987, Zeb Lee and his family attempted to get a new FM station license in Asheville, NC. At the time, Mr. Lee had owned and operated a successful AM station in the area for 40 years.

By all accounts, Mr. Lee has been a model citizen and a model radio station operator, this is in stark contrast to a lot of what is taking place on radio today.

In 1993, a full 6 years later, Mr. Lee was awarded the station on a temporary basis, beating out 12 other applicants. Several of his competitors were found to be unqualified. In fact, one lied about his ability to operate a station. Another lied about his heritage in order to obtain a minority preference.

Pending final approval, Mr. Lee was required by the FCC to sell his AM sta-

tion and to begin constructing a new FM tower. In reliance on the Government, he did both. A week after Zeb Lee was on the air, the FCC issued a public notice freezing all licensing proceedings affected by the Bechtel versus FCC case.

In an unusual move, in 1996, the full FCC Board reversed all previous decisions and awarded temporary operating authority to the four opponents of Zeb Lee in the original application process. The four opponents were acting as a group by this time.

Mr. President, here we are, 10 years later—and Mr. Lee is still fighting his case with the FCC. He was on the air for 3 years—only to be told by the FCC that he would now be taken off the air, once his opponents could go on.

Mr. President, this is a highly unusual case. This was the only station, affected by the Bechtel case, where the initial decision was reserved. Furthermore, the FCC has never issued final regulations pursuant to the Bechtel case.

And what did the four opponents who got the radio station do with the new license—they have shopped for another buyer.

The four opponents have now turned over their temporary license to a large out of state radio company.

The fact of the matter is that the opponents in the licensing process had no intention of running a radio station. They only hope was that Zeb Lee would buy them off—in other words pay “blackmail.” If that did not work—and they did win the radio station—they would transfer those rights for a big profit.

Mr. President, this process is wrong. It is deeply flawed.

Any bureaucratic process that takes 10 years, by itself is an outrage.

But the process that bankrupts an 80 year old man is truly wrong.

If he loses the station, the end result will be that a family owned radio business, located in Asheville area for 40 years, will have lost the radio license in a deeply flawed process.

His four opponents never had any intention of operating a radio station, they only wanted to flip the license to a larger company.

This is wrong, and it must stop.

Mr. President, my amendment would have provided that Zeb Lee could continue to operate his station for a period of 6 more months. This would allow the Congress to review this matter. It would allow us to get to the bottom of what the FCC is doing.

We have to make certain that this process has been fair and even handed, but quite frankly, judging from the facts, there have been serious problems with this entire issue.

Mr. President, in conclusion, I can assure all the citizens in Asheville that I will continue to pursue this matter with vigor. •

ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, as I am sure many of my colleagues are